

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL/AF/C:MGALLAGHER:SGH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

AF/C:CJAMES

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S/S - RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188808

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGS, US, CG

SUBJECT: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE
SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
THE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU. IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT
PLANNED TO SEND SIGNED ORIGINALS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: DURING OUR CONVERSA-
TION LAST APRIL, AND MOST RECENTLY DURING THE VISIT OF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEL, THERE WERE VALUABLE
EXCHANGES OF VIEWPOINTS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF
COMMON INTEREST TO OUR NATIONS. THESE HAVE RESULTED IN,
I BELIEVE, A BETTER AWARENESS OF THE COMMON GROUND WE
SHARE ON MANY ISSUES FACING US TODAY. AS YOU ARE AWARE,
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OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO US ARE THE QUESTIONS OF

PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. I WANT TO REINFORCE WHAT HAD BEEN SAID BEFORE BY PERSONALLY STATING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS.

ON PUERTO RICO, OUR POLICY IS BASED ON COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO APPROVED THEIR CONSTITUTION AND COMMONWEALTH STATUS IN 1952, AND REAFFIRMED THAT CHOICE IN A 1967 REFERENDUM. THE UNITED NATIONS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE SELF-GOVERNING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO, AND REMOVED PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN 1953. WE ASSURED THE UNITED NATIONS AT THAT TIME THAT, IF THE PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE, THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT INDEPENDENCE BE GRANTED.

IN VIEW OF THIS, DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS BY ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR ASSEMBLY WOULD BE AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. THE UNITED STATES CAME INTO POSSESSION OF VARIOUS NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY, AND EACH HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHOOSE THE COURSE IT WISHED TO FOLLOW. THE PHILIPPINES CHOSE INDEPENDENCE IN 1947; HAWAII CHOSE STATEHOOD; AND PUERTO RICO CHOSE A SPECIAL COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. WHICH CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISH TO CONTINUE THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS RELATIONSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS CAN ONLY BE OFFENSIVE TO US AND THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. PRESIDENT FORD MADE THIS POINT WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IN JUNE WHEN HE VISITED PUERTO RICO, AND SAID THAT THOSE WHO MIGHT BE INCLINED TO INTERVENE IN OUR FREELY DETERMINED RELATIONS SHOULD KNOW THAT SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE CONSIDERED INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES. I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND OUR STRONG FEELINGS IN THIS MATTER.

WITH REGARD TO KOREA, WE DO NOT, AND WE BELIEVE MOST U.N. CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMBERS DO NOT, WISH TO SEE THE KOREAN ISSUE BECOME AGAIN A WASTEFUL CONTROVERSY DIVERTING THE ENERGIES OF THE UNGA. HOWEVER, IF IMPORTANT GROUPS WITHIN THE U.N. MEMBERSHIP ACCEDE TO PRESSURES TO ENDORSE THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION--SUCH AS ABOLISHING THE ARMISTICE MACHINERY, OR ALTERING THE MILITARY BALANCE WHICH HAS PRESERVED PEACE FOR 23 YEARS--IT IS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT WE WILL BE FACED WITH A CHALLENGE IN THE UNGA TO WHICH WE

WILL BE OBLIGED TO RESPOND ENERGETICALLY. I WOULD HOPE THAT STATESMEN, IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA, WOULD ADVOCATE A CONCILIATORY POSTURE BY THE PARTIES CONCERNED, AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE TO WHICH THE PARTIES AGREED IN 1972.

ON JULY 22 I PUBLICLY RENEWED MY PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES ON KOREA SUGGESTING THAT IT TAKE PLACE THIS FALL AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE STARTED IMMEDIATELY. I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROPOSAL AS IT MAY RELATE TO FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR CUTLER WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TEXT OF MY PROPOSAL.

RECOGNIZING ZAIRE'S POSITIVE INFLUENCE WITHIN AFRICA, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND AT THE UNITED NATIONS, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTING CONTENTIOUS POSITIONS FROM EMERGING ON EITHER THE PUERTO RICAN OR KOREAN ISSUES AT COMING MEETINGS; IN THE FIRST CASE BY AVOIDANCE OF THE ISSUE ALTOGETHER, AND IN THE SECOND BY SUPPORTING A POSITION ENUMERATING GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH CAN PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR CONCILIATION BETWEEN THE KOREAN PARTIES. WE APPRECIATE THE ACTIONS YOU TOOK IN THIS REGARD AT THE ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED MEETING. RESPECTFULLY, HENRY A. KISSINGER.
END TEXT.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO TREAT FOREGOING AS PRIVILEGED, PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SECRETARY AND RECIPIENT. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCOURAGE GOZ FROM RELEASE IF ISSUE IS RAISED.

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4. YOU SHOULD HAVE PRESIDENT'S PUERTO RICO SPEECH (STATE 159509) AVAILABLE IN EVENT THERE IS INTEREST IN SOURCE OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT TO WHICH MESSAGE REFERS.

KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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